

Good Parents tell children what not to do to keep them safe.

Great Parents help them find things to do, things like:

BIRD PUTTY

Mix 5 Tablespoons cornmeal and one Tablespoon peanut butter very very well. Then add one tablespoon melted lard, Crisco or bacon grease and mix a second time. The putty can be shaped into balls and fed anywhere, on a window ledge, a tree trunk or a home made feeder. One of the best bird feeders is to make a little bag out of the corner of the net bag used for oranges and onions. The wise child will put the putty bag where he sees some birds. After the birds have discovered it he will put it where he wants the birds to be...like his window sill. The birds will move to the new location. Some children might like to make enough to sell...maybe add a few chopped worms or grasshoppers...yum. (That's a bird yum not my yum, I haven't eaten a grasshopper in years). Just pack it in a small plastic container and charge whatever you think your grandparents can afford.

There are many great blessings to making bird putty. It can lead to greater things, other bird feeders, bird nests, bird books, bird calls, etc. It can lead also to an interest in biology. An interest of this sort is great for any child but for the child of divorce it can be a life saver. It calms and occupies the mind, keeps them away from television and makes the house a more peaceful place.

One extra benefit is that actually seeing birds and watching them eat gives life to God's promise that he will look after us just as he looks after the birds. When children (or adults) are worried seeing a bird can remind us that God knows every single one personally and he knows us personally too. We can even sing about birds "His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me." The hidden blessing of all the stress that goes with life after divorce is that it can lead to an even deeper faith...a faith we can share with our children. May your bird putty be the best on the block. May your children remember it all their lives.